

# On the local center of Liénard-type systems

日本大学理工学部 林 誠 (MAKOTO HAYASHI)

## 1. Introduction

Our aim in this paper is to seek a necessary and sufficient condition in order that an analytic Liénard-type system has a local center. The equilibrium point is called a local center of the system if all the orbits in every neighborhood of it are closed. To decide the number of the non-trivial closed orbits of a Liénard-type system is important, and to see if an equilibrium point of the system is a center is a difficult problem. It has continued until today to draw attention of many mathematicians. For this purpose we assume the case where the corresponding linear system has a pair of pure imaginary eigenvalues (since otherwise the equilibrium point cannot be a center). Thus, we consider an analytic Liénard-type system of the following form:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = y \\ \dot{y} = f_n(x)y^p - (x + g_q(x)), \end{cases} \quad (\text{L})$$

where the dot ( $\dot{\phantom{x}}$ ) denotes differentiation,  $f_n(x)$  and  $g_q(x)$  are real analytic functions of the form (C) below.

$$f_n(x) = \sum_{k=n} a_k x^k \quad \text{and} \quad g_q(x) = \sum_{k=q} b_k x^k, \quad (\text{C})$$

where  $n + p \geq 2^*$  and  $q \geq 2$ .

Then the system (L) has an equilibrium point at the origin and the coefficient matrix of the linear system approximating the system at the origin has a pair of purely imaginary eigenvalues. In this case the equilibrium point is either a center or a focus.

In the old paper of T. Saito[Sa] he gave a necessary and sufficient condition on the case  $g_q(x) \equiv 0$ . Recently, the author have treated on the special case  $n = p = 1$  and  $q = 2$  in [Ha]. Our results are an improvement of these papers and are stated as follows.

**Theorem A.** *Suppose that  $g_q$  is an odd function. The system (L) with the form (C) has a local center at the origin if and only if one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

- (1)  $p$  is an even number;
- (2)  $p$  is an odd number and  $f_n$  is an odd function.

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\*For the case  $n + p \leq 1$  see §3 Appendix

**Theorem B.** Suppose that  $f_n$  is an odd function and  $n + p \leq q$ . The system (L) with the form (C) has a local center at the origin if and only if  $g_q$  is an odd function.

We shall apply our results to an analytic Liénard-type system of the form

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = y \\ \dot{y} = f_n(x)y^{2n-1} - \sin x. \end{cases}$$

with  $f_n(0) = 0$  and  $n \geq 1$ . Using Theorem A for this system, it follows that the equilibrium point  $(0, 0)$  is a local center if and only if  $f_n$  is an odd function.

## 2. Proof of Theorems

Now let us prove Theorem A. We suppose that  $g_q$  is an odd function. Let  $(x(t), y(t))$  be a solution of the system (L). Then, if  $p$  is an odd number and  $f_n$  is an odd function,  $(-x(-t), y(-t))$  is also a solution of the system (L) with the form (C). Thus the orbits defined by the system (L) have mirror symmetry with respect to the  $y$ -axis. Hence the system (L) cannot have a focus at the origin. Similarly, if  $p$  is an even number, since  $(x(-t), -y(-t))$  is also a solution of the system (L), the system cannot have a focus at the origin.

Conversely, we suppose that the origin is a local center. To prove the theorems we use the following fundamental tool which is well-known as Poincaré–Lyapunov’ lemma (see [Ha], [P] or [Sch]).

**Proposition.** If the system (L) has a local center at the origin, then it has a nonconstant real analytic first integral  $M(x, y) = \text{const.}$  in a neighborhood of the origin. It can be written by a power series of the form

$$M(x, y) = c(x^2 + y^2) + M_3(x, y) + M_4(x, y) + \cdots, \quad (1)$$

where  $c$  is some real constant and  $M_m(x, y)$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $x$  and  $y$  of degree  $m \geq 3$ .

Introducing the polar coordinates  $x = r \cos \theta$  and  $y = r \sin \theta$ , the equality (1) is written as

$$M(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) = r^2 \widetilde{M}_2(\theta) + r^3 \widetilde{M}_3(\theta) + \cdots,$$

where  $r^m \widetilde{M}_m(\theta) = M_m(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$  for  $m \geq 2$  and  $\widetilde{M}_2(\theta) = c$ .

Now let  $(x(t), y(t))$  be a periodic solution of the system (L) with the form (C) and write  $x(t) = r(t) \cos \theta(t)$  and  $y(t) = r(t) \sin \theta(t)$ . Then we have

$$\dot{r} = \sum_{k=n} a_k r^{k+1} \cos^k \theta \sin^2 \theta - \sum_{k=q} b_k r^k \cos^k \theta \sin \theta \quad (2)$$

and

$$\dot{\theta} = -1 + \sum_{k=n} a_k r^k \cos^{k+1} \theta \sin \theta - \sum_{k=q} b_k r^{k-1} \cos^{k+1} \theta. \quad (3)$$

Differentiating with respect to  $t$  the relation

$$M(r(t) \cos \theta(t), r(t) \sin \theta(t)) = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} r(t)^m \widetilde{M}_m(\theta(t)) \equiv \text{const.},$$

we obtain

$$\sum_{m=2} m r^{m-1} \dot{r} \widetilde{M}_m(\theta) + \sum_{m=3} r^m \widetilde{M}'_m(\theta) \dot{\theta} = 0, \quad (4)$$

where the prime ( $'$ ) denotes differentiation with respect to  $\theta$ . It follows from (2), (3) and (4) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{m=3} r^m \widetilde{M}'_m(\theta) \quad (5) \\ &= \sum_{m=3} r^m \widetilde{M}'_m(\theta) \left[ \sum_{k=n} a_k r^{k+p-1} \cos^{k+1} \theta \sin^p \theta - \sum_{k=q} b_k r^{k-1} \cos^{k+1} \theta \right] \\ &+ \sum_{m=2} m r^{m-1} \dot{r} \widetilde{M}_m(\theta) \left[ \sum_{k=n} a_k r^{k+p} \cos^k \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta - \sum_{k=q} b_k r^k \cos^k \theta \sin \theta \right]. \end{aligned}$$

We give the proof by dividing all possible cases to the cases (I)  $n+p+s=q$ ,  $s \geq 0$  and (II)  $n+p=q+t$ ,  $t > 0$ . Moreover, we need to divide these cases to the eight cases as is shown in the table below, where the sign e (resp. o) denotes an even (resp. odd) number.

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)
$n$	e	e	o	o	e	e	o	o
$p$	o	o	o	o	e	e	e	e
$q$	o	e	o	e	o	e	o	e

Case(I) :  $n+p+s=q$ ,  $s \geq 0$

First, we get the following lemma by comparing the terms of the same degree in  $r$  on both sides of the equality (5).

**Lemma 1.** *If  $m \leq n+p$ , then  $\widetilde{M}'_m(\theta) = 0$ .*

We shall consider the case (I)-(i).

**Lemma 2.** *Suppose that  $n+p < m \leq n+p+s=q$ . Then  $a_i = 0$  for even numbers  $i \in [n, n+s-1]$  and  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only.*

The proof is given by the same discussion as in [Sa]. So we omit it.

**Lemma 3.** *Suppose that  $m > q$ . Then  $a_i = 0$  for even numbers  $i \geq n+s$  and  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only.*

*Proof.* From (5) we remark that the equality

$$\begin{aligned}
\widetilde{M}'_{q+r}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{s+r-1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)a_{n+s+r-k-1} \cos^{n+s+r-k-1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\
&\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q+r-k-1} \cos^{q+r-k-1} \theta \sin \theta \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{s+r-2} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)a_{n+s+r-k-2} \cos^{n+s+r-k-1} \theta \sin^p \theta \\
&\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{r-2} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)b_{q+r-k-2} \cos^{q+r-k-1} \theta. \tag{6}
\end{aligned}$$

holds for  $1 \leq r$ . When  $r = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\widetilde{M}'_{q+1}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^s (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)a_{n+s-k} \cos^{n+s-k} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\
&\quad - 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)b_q \cos^q \theta \sin \theta \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{s-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)a_{n+s-k-1} \cos^{n+s-k} \theta \sin^p \theta.
\end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1 and 2, since

$$\widetilde{M}'_{q+1}(2\pi) - \widetilde{M}'_{q+1}(0) = 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)a_{n+s} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^{n+s} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta d\theta = 0,$$

we get  $a_{n+s} = 0$ . Hence we see that  $\widetilde{M}'_{q+1}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only. Moreover, from (6) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\widetilde{M}'_{q+2}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{s+1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)a_{n+s-k+1} \cos^{n+s-k+1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\
&\quad - \sum_{k=0}^1 (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q-k+1} \cos^{q-k+1} \theta \sin \theta \\
&\quad + \sum_{k=0}^s \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)a_{n+s-k} \cos^{n+s-k+1} \theta \sin^p \theta \\
&\quad - \widetilde{M}'_3(\theta)b_q \cos^{q+1} \theta.
\end{aligned}$$

By  $a_{n+s} = 0$  and the assumption that  $g_q$  is an odd function, we obtain that  $\widetilde{M}'_{q+2}(\theta)$  is also a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only.

From now on, we suppose that for all  $l \geq 1$

$$a_{n+s} = a_{n+s+2} = \cdots = a_{n+s+2(l-1)} = 0$$

and  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  have been determined up to  $m = q + 2l$  as polynomials of  $\sin \theta$  only. Then, from (6), the equality determining  $\widetilde{M}_{q+2l+1}(\theta)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+2l+1}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{s+2l} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) a_{n+s+2l-k} \cos^{n+s+2l-k} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{2l} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) b_{q+2l-k} \cos^{q+2l-k} \theta \sin \theta \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{s+2l-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) a_{n+s+2l-k} \cos^{n+s+2l-k} \theta \sin^p \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{2l-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) b_{q+2l-k-1} \cos^{q+2l-k} \theta \\ &= 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta) a_{n+s+2l} \cos^{n+s+2l} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta + \sum(\dots). \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

From Lemma 2, the assumption of induction and that  $g_q$  is an odd function, all the terms on the right-hand side of the equality (7), except the first one, have the form (polynomial of  $\sin \theta$ )  $\times$  (odd power of  $\cos \theta$ ). Thus, since

$$\widetilde{M}_{q+2l+1}(2\pi) - \widetilde{M}_{q+2l+1}(0) = 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta) a_{n+s+2l} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^{n+s+2l} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta d\theta = 0,$$

we get  $a_{n+s+2l} = 0$ . Hence we see that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+2l+1}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only.

Moreover we consider  $\widetilde{M}_{q+2(l+1)}(\theta)$ . By (6),  $\widetilde{M}_{q+2(l+1)}(\theta)$  is determined from the equality

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+2(l+1)}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{s+2l+1} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) a_{n+s+2l-k+1} \cos^{n+s+2l-k+1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{2l+1} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) b_{q+2l-k+1} \cos^{q+2l-k+1} \theta \sin \theta \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{s+2l} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) a_{n+s+2l-k+1} \cos^{n+s+2l-k+1} \theta \sin^p \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{2l} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) b_{q+2l-k} \cos^{q+2l-k} \theta \\ &= 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta) a_{n+s+2l+1} \cos^{n+s+2l+1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta + \sum(\dots). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

From the above fact (i.e.  $a_{n+s+2l} = 0$ ), the assumption of induction and that  $g_q$  is an odd function, all the terms on the right-hand side of the equality (8) have the form (polynomial of  $\sin \theta$ )  $\times$  (odd power of  $\cos \theta$ ). Thus we conclude that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+2(l+1)}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\sin \theta$  only.

Other seven cases are also proved by a similar method to the above one.

Case(II) :  $n + p = q + t, t > 0$

First, we get the following lemma by comparing the terms of the same degree in  $r$  on both sides of the equality (5).

**Lemma 4.** *If  $m \leq q$ , then  $\widetilde{M}'_m(\theta) = 0$ .*

We shall consider the case (II)-(i). We get the following

**Lemma 5.** *Suppose that  $q < m \leq q + t = n + p$ . Then  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.*

*Proof.* From (5) we have

$$\widetilde{M}'_{q+1}(\theta) = -2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)b_q \cos^q \theta \sin \theta.$$

Thus  $\widetilde{M}_{q+1}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.

From now on, we suppose that  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  have been determined up to  $q + r - 1$  ( $2 \leq r \leq t$ ) as polynomials of  $\cos \theta$  only. Then the equality determining  $\widetilde{M}_{q+r}(\theta)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+r}(\theta) = & - \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q+r-k-1} \cos^{q+r-k-1} \theta \sin \theta \\ & - \sum_{k=0}^{r-2} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)b_{q+r-k-2} \cos^{q+r-k-1} \theta. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Thus, we see from the assumption of induction and Lemma 4 that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+r}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** *Suppose that  $m > q + t = n + p$ . Then  $a_i = 0$  for even numbers  $i \geq n$  and  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.*

*Proof.* From (5) we remark that the equality

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+t+r}(\theta) = & \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)a_{n+r-k-1} \cos^{n+r-k-1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ & - \sum_{k=0}^{r+t-1} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q+t+r-k-1} \cos^{q+t+r-k-1} \theta \sin \theta \\ & + \sum_{k=0}^{r-2} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)a_{n+r-k-2} \cos^{n+r-k-1} \theta \sin^p \theta \\ & - \sum_{k=0}^{r+t-2} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)b_{q+t+r-k-2} \cos^{q+t+r-k-1} \theta \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

holds for  $1 \leq r$ . When  $r = 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+t+1}(\theta) &= 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)a_n \cos^n \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^t (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q+t-k} \cos^{q+t-k} \theta \sin \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{t-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)b_{q+t-k-1} \cos^{q+t-k} \theta. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 4 and 5, since

$$\widetilde{M}_{q+t+1}(2\pi) - \widetilde{M}_{q+t+1}(0) = 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)a_n \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^n \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta d\theta = 0,$$

we get  $a_n = 0$ . Hence we see that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+1}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only. As the result, we obtain from (10) that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2}(\theta)$  is also a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.

From now on, we suppose that for all  $l \geq 1$

$$a_n = a_{n+2} = \cdots = a_{n+2(l-1)} = 0 \quad (11)$$

and  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  have been determined up to  $m = q + t + 2l$  as polynomials of  $\cos \theta$  only. Then, from (10), the equality determining  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2l+1}(\theta)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+t+2l+1}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2l} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)a_{n+2l-k} \cos^{n+2l-k} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{t+2l} (k+2)\widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta)b_{q+t+2l-k} \cos^{q+t+2l-k} \theta \sin \theta \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{2l-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)a_{n+2l-k-1} \cos^{n+2l-k} \theta \sin^p \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{t+2l-1} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta)b_{q+t+2l-k-1} \cos^{q+t+2l-k} \theta \\ &= 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)a_{n+2l} \cos^{n+2l} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta + \sum(\cdots). \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

From the assumption of induction and that  $g_q$  is an odd function, all the terms on the right-hand side of the equality (12), except the first one, have the form (polynomial of  $\sin \theta$ )  $\times$  (odd power of  $\cos \theta$ ). Thus, since

$$\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2l+1}(2\pi) - \widetilde{M}_{q+t+2l+1}(0) = 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta)a_{n+2l} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos^{n+2l} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta d\theta = 0,$$

we get  $a_{n+2l} = 0$ . Hence we see that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2l+1}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.

Moreover we consider  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2(l+1)}(\theta)$ . By (10),  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2(l+1)}(\theta)$  is determined from the equality

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{M}'_{q+t+2(l+1)}(\theta) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2l+1} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) a_{n+2l-k+1} \cos^{n+2l-k+1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{t+2l+1} (k+2) \widetilde{M}_{k+2}(\theta) b_{q+t+2l-k+1} \cos^{q+t+2l-k+1} \theta \sin \theta \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^{2l} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) a_{n+2l-k} \cos^{n+2l-k+1} \theta \sin^p \theta \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=0}^{t+2l} \widetilde{M}'_{k+3}(\theta) b_{q+t+2l-k} \cos^{q+t+2l-k+1} \theta \\ &= 2\widetilde{M}_2(\theta) a_{n+2l+1} \cos^{n+s+2l+1} \theta \sin^{p+1} \theta + \sum(\dots). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

From the above fact (i.e.  $a_{n+2l} = 0$ ), the assumption of induction and that  $g_q$  is an odd function, all the terms on the right-hand side of the equality (13) have the form (polynomial of  $\sin \theta$ )  $\times$  (odd power of  $\cos \theta$ ). Thus we conclude that  $\widetilde{M}_{q+t+2(l+1)}(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  only.

Other seven cases are also proved by a similar method to the above one. Therefore the proof of Theorem A is now completed.  $\square$

The following fact is a key in the proof of Theorem B.

**Lemma 7.** Suppose that  $n + p < m \leq n + p + s = q$ . If  $m$  is an odd (resp. even) number, then  $\widetilde{M}_m(\theta)$  is a polynomial of  $\cos \theta$  of odd (resp. even) degree only.

We omit the details for the proofs of Lemma 7 and Theorem B.

### 3. Appendix

[1] We consider the case  $n + p \leq 1$  in the form (C). If  $(n, p) = (1, 0)$  and  $a_1 > 1$ , then there exists the first integral  $(1/2)y^2 + \int_0^x \{f_1(\xi) - \xi - g_q(\xi)\} d\xi = \text{const.}$  of the system (L). Since  $x\{f_1(x) - x - g_q(x)\} > 0$  ( $x \neq 0$ ) in the neighborhood of the origin, the equilibrium point is a center.

If  $(n, p) = (0, 1)$  and  $a_1 > 1$ , then we can apply Theorem A and B to this system.

We set  $P(x) = f_0(x) - x - g_q(x)$ . Let a solution of the equation  $P(x) = 0$  be  $x = \alpha$ . If  $(n, p) = (0, 0)$  and  $P'(-\alpha) > 0$ , then we also can apply Theorem A and B to this system.

[2] By combining the mentioned facts above and the result in [Su], we have the following result on a global center of the system (L).



**Corollary.** Consider the system (L) with  $p = 1$  of the form (C). Suppose that

(C<sub>1</sub>)  $g_q$  is an odd function with  $g_q(0) = 0$  and  $x\{x + g_q(x)\} > 0$  ( $x \neq 0$ ),

(C<sub>2</sub>) there exists  $0 \leq \lambda < \sqrt{8}$  such that

$$\left| \int_0^x f_n(\xi) d\xi \right| \leq \lambda \sqrt{\int_0^x g_q(\xi) d\xi} \quad \text{for sufficiently large } x.$$

Then the equilibrium point  $(0, 0)$  of the system (L) is a global center if and only if  $\int_0^\infty g(x) dx = \infty$ .

## References

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